



Asterix and the Roman agent

by GOSCINNY and UDERZO



DARGAUD
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ASTERIX AND THE ROMAN AGENT

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The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...



a few of the Gauls

Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...

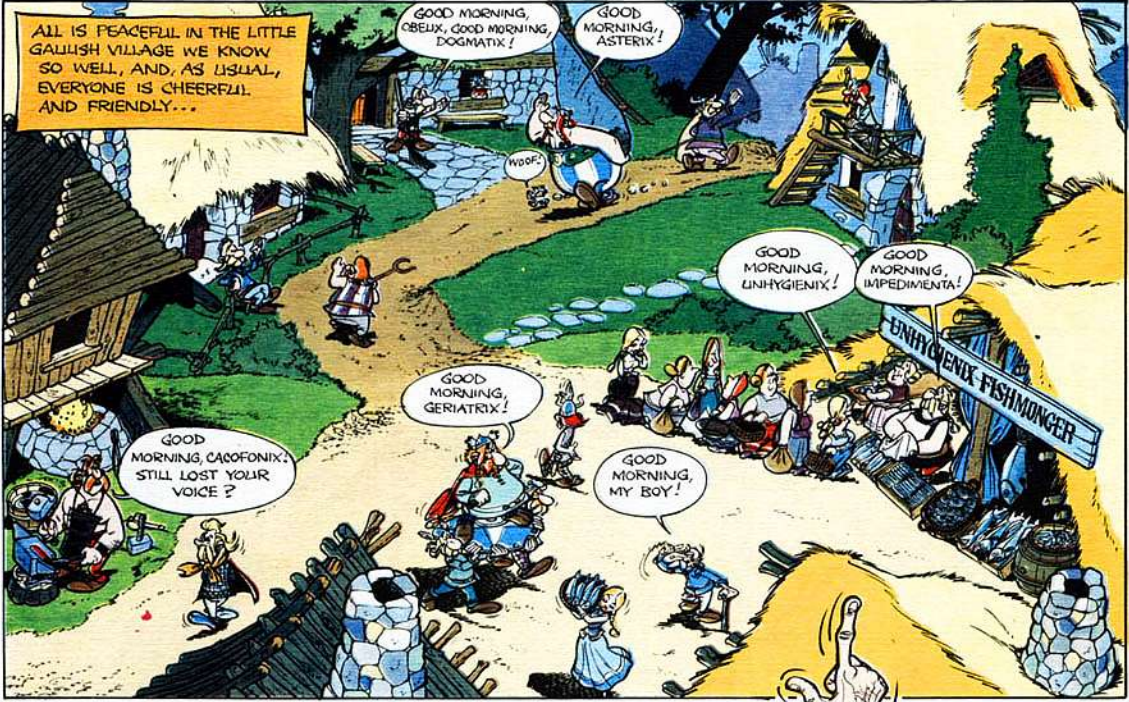


Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...



Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GALLISH VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL, AND, AS USUAL, EVERYONE IS CHEERFUL AND FRIENDLY...



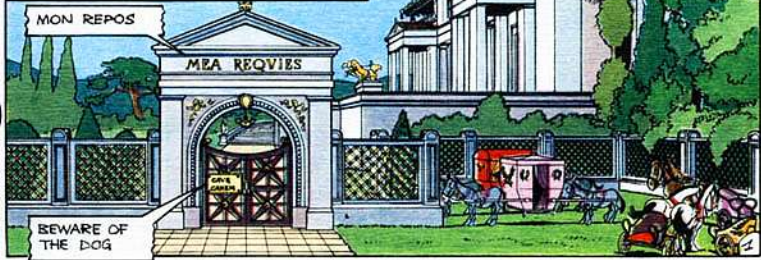
AND IN THE ROMAN SENATE, OLD SENATOR STRADMARVUS IS GETTING ALL STRUNG UP, IN HIS WELL MODULATED TONES, CALCULATED TO RAISE A CROWD TO FEVER PITCH, HE IS SETTING AN OLD SCORE WITH CAESAR...



LET CAESAR ENFORCE THE POWER OF ROME IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BEFORE HE THINKS OF NEW CAMPAIGNS!



SO THE NEXT DAY CAESAR HAS A MEETING OF HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT HIS LUXURIOUS VILLA OUTSIDE ROME.



AH, THERE YOU ARE AT LAST, BRITUS! SIT DOWN, NOW WE CAN BEGIN.

THE ROADS ARE SO BUSY AFTER THE CALEND...



THE SENATE WANTS TO TAKE ITS REVENGE ON ME FOR CUTTING ITS POWER. I MUST SHOW THEM WHO'S THE BOSS, AND TO DO THAT I'LL HAVE TO WIPE OUT THIS WRETCHED GALLISH VILLAGE...



LET'S HAVE YOUR IDEAS... SPEAK UP



ET TUI, BRUTE

I SUGGEST BRUTE FORCE!



THEY HAVE A MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES THEM INVINCIBLE. AND DO PLIT THAT DAGGER AWAY YOU IDIOT, YOU'LL DO YOURSELF AN INJURY!

STOP ME IF I'M ON THE WRONG TRACK, BUT WHY ABOUT BUYING THEM OFF?



THESE BARBARIANS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY. IF THEY WERE, THE MAGIC POTION WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE MARKET LONG AGO!

THIS IS ONLY A SUGGESTION, BUT...



... THEIR STRENGTH SPRINGS FROM THEIR SOLIDARITY. IF WE COULD SOW A BIT OF DISCORD IN THE VILLAGE, THEY WOULD SPLIT UP AND THE POTION WOULDN'T MATTER ANY MORE...



I KNOW THE GALLIS ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR INCENSANT ARGUMENTS, BUT THIS LOT STICK TOGETHER THROUGH THICK AND THIN

J.C. ! I'VE GOT THE VERY MAN! HE'LL SPLIT THEM UP FOR YOU!



HE LIKED TO HAVE A FLAT IN AN *INSULLA I OWN. HE MADE SO MUCH TROUBLE IN THE BUILDING THAT THE OTHER TENANTS MANAGED TO GET HIM THROWN INTO PRISON TO BE EATEN BY THE LIONS!

* BLOCK OF FLATS



WHERE IS THIS TROUBLEMAKER OF YOURS?

HE'S STILL IN PRISON. WHEN THEY PLIT HIM IN THE ARENA, THE LIONS ATE ONE ANOTHER!



HAVE HIM BROUGHT TO ME ! NOW FOR SOME FOOD. ET TUI, BRUTE !

THESE CLASSICAL ALLUSIONS ARE BEGINNING TO GET ON MY NERVES ! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL...

WHAT'S HIS NAME, YOUR TROUBLEMAKER?

TORTULIUS CONVULVULUS. YOU'LL SEE, J. C. HE'S A BIT OF A WEED, BUT VERY EFFECTIVE. THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER FOLLOWS HIM WHEREVER HE GOES - IT'S LIKE MAGIC!

WE NEED MAGIC TO GET RID OF THOSE GALLS ...

YOU'RE A ROTTEN SNEAK, BY JUPITER!

SAY THAT AGAIN!

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?!?

YOU HEARD. A ROTTEN SNEAK!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO GO ROUND SAYING I'M THE CENTURION'S PET!

IS THAT SO? AND WHO WAS IT TOLD HIM I CAME BACK TO CAMP I OVER THE VIII LAST NIGHT?

NOW THEN, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

IT WASN'T ME WHO...

AVE CAESAR! IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR ORDERS WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE PRISONER TORTULIUS CONVULVULUS

GOOD. LINDO HIM, THEN FALL OUT

COME ALONG, TORTULIUS CONVULVULUS

SNEAK!

DRUNKARD!

YOU MEAN THIS IS THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR PROBLEMS? HE DOESN'T LOOK UP TO MUCH!



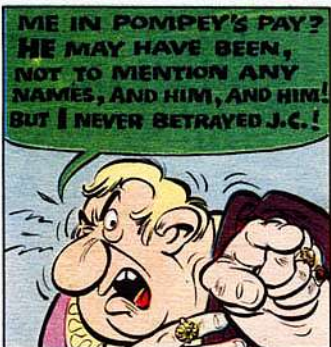
OH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN IT'S NOT BRUTUS'S IDEA, BRUTUS IS JEALOUS!



JEALOUS? MAYBE I AM JEALOUS, BUT I DIDN'T BETRAY CAESAR! I WAS NEVER IN THE PAY OF POMPEY!



ME IN POMPEY'S PAY? HE MAY HAVE BEEN, NOT TO MENTION ANY NAMES, AND HIM, AND HIM! BUT I NEVER BETRAYED J.C.!



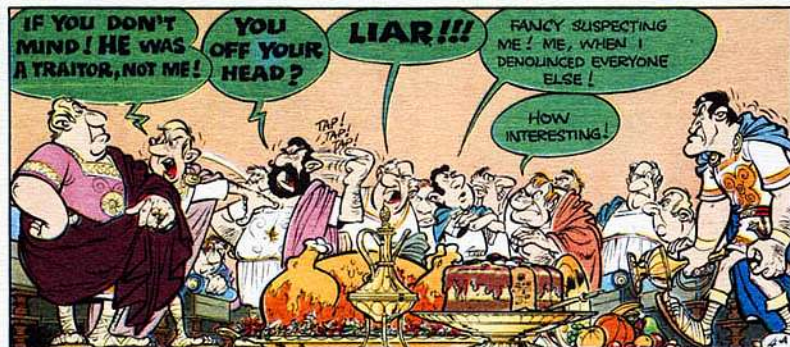
IF YOU DON'T MIND! HE WAS A TRAITOR, NOT ME!

YOU OFF YOUR HEAD?

LIAR!!!

FANCY SUSPECTING ME! ME, WHEN I DENOUNCED EVERYONE ELSE!

HOW INTERESTING!



HEE, HEE, HEE!

TRAITOR!

BARBARIAN!

DIRTY SPY!



GENTLEMEN, PLEASE! I SHOULDN'T LIKE TO BE THE CAUSE OF ANY DISAGREEMENT. IF, IN THE PAST, YOU HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF CAESAR'S GULLIBILITY...



GULLIBLE, ME ???



YOU'RE GREAT! I'M SENDING YOU ON A MISSION TO GAUL. IF YOU SUCCEED YOU'LL GET YOUR FREEDOM AND A FORTUNE

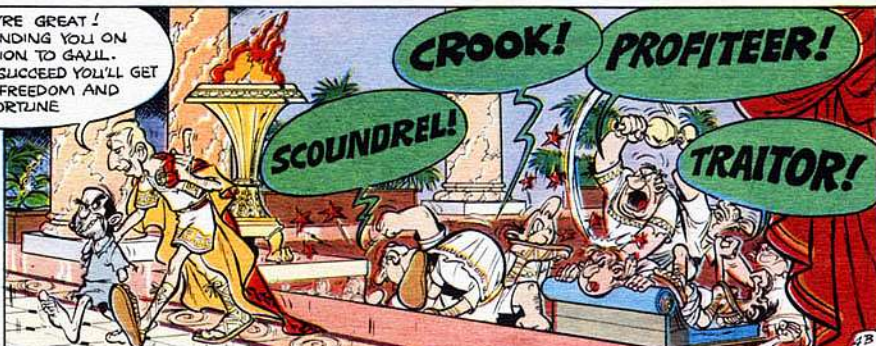


SCOUNDREL!

CROOK!

PROFITEER!

TRAITOR!

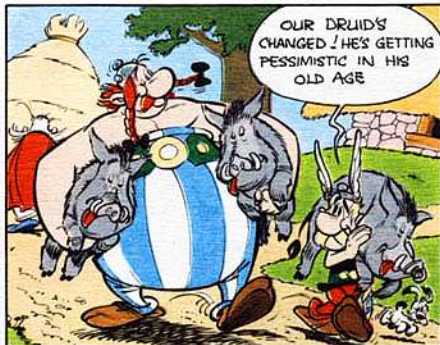


MEANWHILE, THINGS ARE MUCH THE SAME IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE...



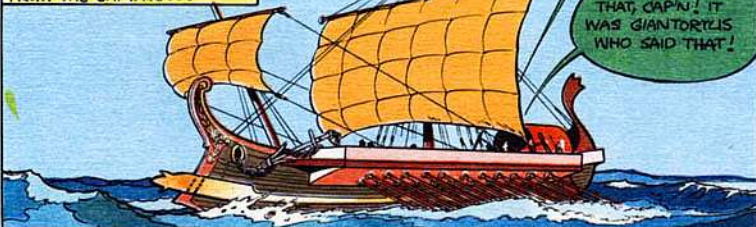
LIFE'S GOOD, O DRUID!

TOO GOOD, ASTERIX! THE ROMANS ARE BEHAVING THEMSELVES, WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY WORRIES, OUR BARD HAS LOST HIS VOICE - IT CAN'T LAST... I FEEL THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING



OUR DRUID'S CHANGED! HE'S GETTING PESSIMISTIC IN HIS OLD AGE

HOWEVER, THE DRUID'S PREMONITION IS NOT WITHOUT FOUNDATION. DANGER IS PLOUGHING ITS WAY TOWARDS GAUL ON BOARD A ROMAN GALLEY WHERE EVERYONE IS ARGUING, FROM THE CAPTAIN...



WELL NOW, ABERDEENANGUS, SO IT SEEMS I'M NOTHING BUT AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE?

I NEVER SAID THAT, CAP'N! IT WAS GIANTORTUS WHO SAID THAT!

... DOWN TO THE GALLEY SLAVES

WAS IT YOU WHO TOLD THE OTHER LADS I WASN'T PULLING MY WEIGHT?

SHUT UP AND ROW!



WELL, GIANTORTUS DID SAY THAT IT WAS YOU WHO SAID I WAS NOTHING BUT AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE!

AND I SAY THAT IF GIANTORTUS SAID THAT, GIANTORTUS IS A LIAR!

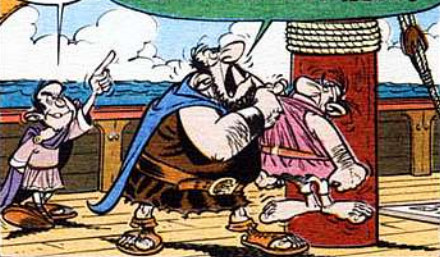


PIRATE SHIP TO PORT!



DID YOU HEAR THAT, CAPTAIN?

NO! NO ONE'S TO LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S BEEN SENT TO COVENTRIUM!



HE DARED TO SAY THAT WHILE WE WERE AT SEA OUR WIVES WERE ALL OUT AT ORGIES!



IF THAT'S THE WAY THE LAND LIES, I SHAN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!!!



HUH! THEY'RE THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO'D SAY I ONLY GOT INTO THE NAVY BECAUSE MY WIFE IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF JULIUS CAESAR'S SECOND COUSIN TWICE REMOVED!





ROMAN GALLEY TO STARBOARD!

D'YOU SEE ANY GAULS?



NOT A SIGN!

RIGHT...
GET READY TO BOARD HER!



THE PIRATES ARE GOING TO BOARD US, CAPTAIN! WHAT CAN WE DO?

ARE YOU EXPECTING A DECISION FROM AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE, GIANTORTUS?



THAT'S SLANDER! ABERDEEN ANGUS SPENDS HIS TIME SLANDERING EVERYONE!

I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD ENOUGH...



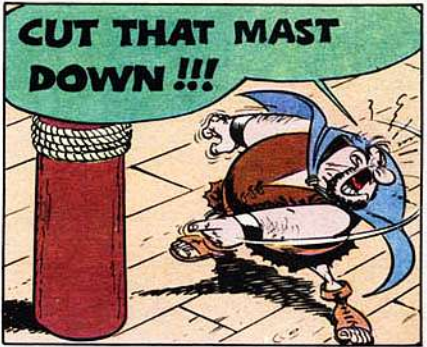
HAVE YOU LOT DOWN THERE NEARLY FINISHED? WOULDN'T YOUR WIVES BE PROUD IF THEY COULD SEE YOU NOW!



THAT'S DONE IT! COME DOWN HERE AND JUMP TO IT!



NO! I PREFER TO REMAIN ALOOF, ALOFT!



CUT THAT MAST DOWN!!!



HEY! WHAT ABOUT US, THEN?

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

SHIVER ME TIMBERS! YOU CAN GET READY TO RECEIVE BOARDERS, THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

BUT THAT'S NOT ON! WHEN I SAW HIM IN ROME, I GAVE HIM A BAG OF GOLD AND HE PROMISED NOT TO ATTACK US!

?!?!?!

A TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST!

TRAITOR, ME?

AND WHERE'S THE GOLD? WE NEVER SAW ANY OF IT!

HOW DARE YOU BLACKEN MY NAME!

AURI SACRA FAMES!

AS FOR YOU, YOU DISTINGLISHED CLASSICAL SCHOLAR, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO GET ON MY...

BOING!

HAAAAAAA!

I'VE HOLED US IN THE HOLD! I'VE HOLED US IN THE HOLD!

BOOM! CRACK! TCHAC! TCHONK! BIFF! BONG! PAFF!

WHAT THE... WE'RE SINKING!!!

NOW YOU'RE SCUPPERED!

THIS IS GREAT, BOYS! WE DON'T NEED THE GALLS ANY MORE. WE CAN MAKE FOOLS OF OURSELVES WITHOUT THEM

WHAM! TCHONK!

PAFF!

IN THE LITTLE GALLISH VILLAGE, IN CONTRAST TO THESE VIOLENT EVENTS...

WE'RE GOING TO GET THINGS READY FOR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

IT WILL BE AN OCCASION OF GENERAL GOODWILL!

THERE'LL BE HEAPS OF BOAR, FULL OF BONES, DOGMATIX!

I'M GOING TO GIVE THE CHIEF A MENHIR. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

A SHIELD FOR HIS COLLECTION!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A SWORD!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A FISH. HE CAN STUFF IT!

DON'T LET ON! REMEMBER, WE WANT TO GIVE VITALSTATISTIX A NICE SURPRISE...

WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE! MY DEAR FRIENDS...

... I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, BUT LET ME TRY TO EXPRESS ALL THE JOY I FEEL ...

YOU COULD HELP ME PLUCK THIS CHICKEN, INSTEAD OF SPOILING SUCH RUBBISH!

IMPEDIMENTS, IN MY POSITION AS CHIEF, AS THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE VILLAGE, I DO HAVE CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS...

YES, WHEN IT COMES TO STUFFING YOURSELF WITH FOOD AND DRINK ANY EXCUSE WILL DO, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO WORKING...

WELL, YOU'RE PROUD OF BEING THE CHIEF'S WIFE, AREN'T YOU? FIRST LADY OF THE VILLAGE! SOME OF MY GLORY RUBS OFF ON TO YOU!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! WE'RE GOING TO BE LANDED WITH A LOT OF STUPID PRESENTS. WE COULD NEVER EXPECT YOUR FRIENDS TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING WORTHWHILE, OH NO! NO ARTISTIC SENSE! JUST SAVAGES...



IN THE TENT OF THE CENTURION IN COMMAND OF THE ROMAN CAMP OF AQUALIUM...

... AND THAT PORTION OF THEIRS MUST BE STRONG STUFF - THEY'RE FULL OF TEAM SPIRIT!

I KNOW ALL THAT, FELIX PLATYPUS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT CAESAR SAID: YOU MUST TAKE YOUR ORDERS FROM ME!

I DON'T OBJECT TO THAT AT ALL, CONVULVULLIS. I JUST DON'T THINK THAT YOU'LL MANAGE TO SPLIT THEM UP...

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF EVERY ONE OF THOSE NUT CASES. NOW, I NEED THAT!

THAT?

IT'S JUST THAT THIS VASE IS PART OF THE SPOILS FROM ONE OF MY CAMPAIGNS...

YES, YOUR JUNIOR OFFICERS TOLD ME YOU HAD SOME INDIVIDUAL IDEAS ABOUT SHARING OUT THE BOOTY

GET ALL MY JUNIOR OFFICERS FALLEN IN!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WHAT DO YOU WANT, ROMAN?

I HAVE BROUGHT A PRESENT TO THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE VILLAGE!

... AND HE'S BROUGHT A VALUABLE VASE!

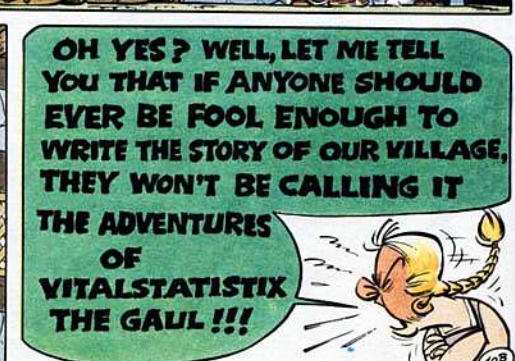
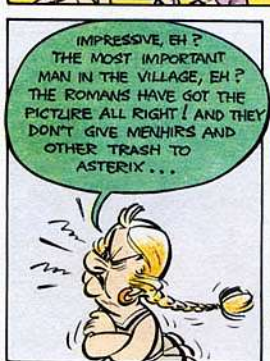
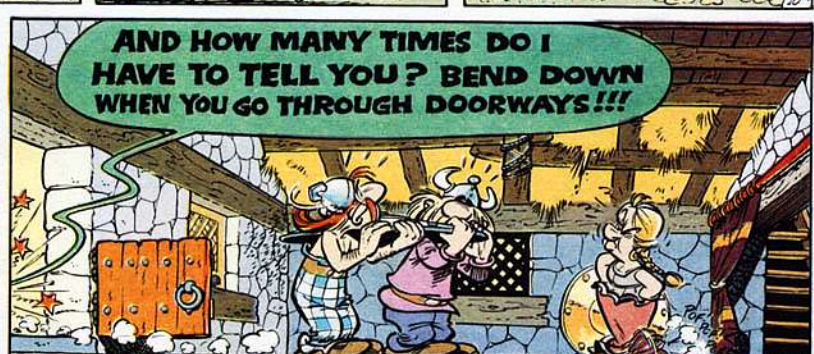
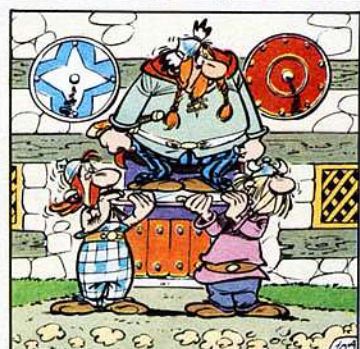
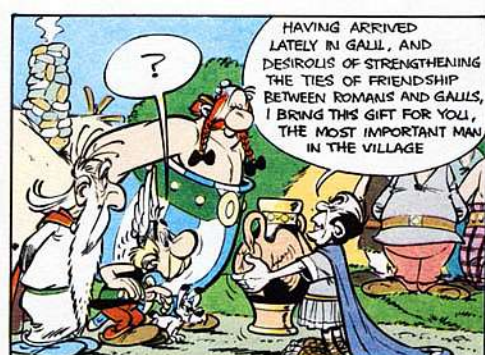
AH!

?

PORTERS!

CLICK!

HERE HE COMES! RIGHT, BOYS! SHOW A BIT OF DIGNITY! WE DON'T WANT TO LOOK AS IF WE'RE EXPECTING HIM!





AH! WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT FOR LUNCH, IMPEDIMENTA, MY LOVE ?

THAT!

BOOHOO! MY PARENTS WARNED ME YOU WERE NO GOOD! I'VE GIVEN THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE TO A GREAT FAT BOAR! A BARBARIAN! A FAILURE! EVERYONE LOOKS DOWN ON ME!

!?!?

YOU'LL NEVER GET A VALUABLE VASE, NOT YOU! NOBODY EVER GIVES ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO YOU!

I'M JUST ABOUT FED UP TO THE BACK TEETH WITH THIS VASE!

AND COARSE WITH IT!
Boohoo! Boohoo!

WATCH IT! HERE'S THE BOSS!

?

I DIDN'T RING FOR YOU!
I'M GOING OUT ON FOOT!
INCOGNITO!!!

!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, ROMAN?

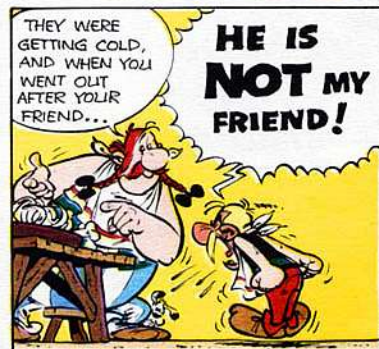
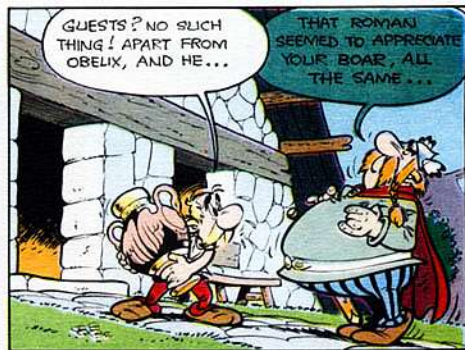
NOTHING. I WAS JUST PASSING, SO I POPPED IN TO SAY AVE

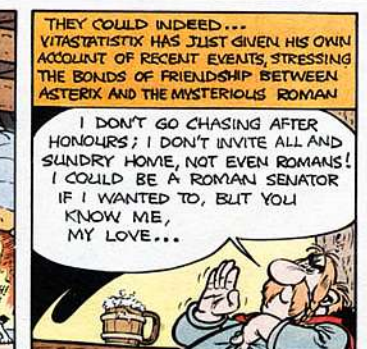
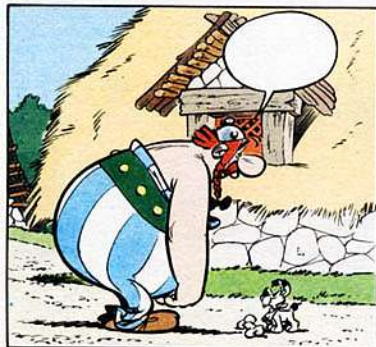
RIGHT. AVE. NOW TAKE YOUR VASE AND OFF YOU GO!

WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT! I WON'T KEEP YOU ANY LONGER

THAT BOAR WAS EXCELLENT! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING ASTERIX!

?







I HOPE I'M LATE ?

OF COURSE NOT



NOT TOO MUCH, JUST A LITTLE!

OH, IT'S ONLY MILK, SUGAR, EGGS, FLOUR AND BOAR FAT - NOT AT ALL FATTENING



IMPEDIMENTA, ABOUT THIS MORNING... IT WAS ONLY A BIT OF FUN... A JOKE

OF COURSE ! LET'S TALK ABOUT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS...



MY HUSBAND THE CHIEF - JULIUS CAESAR NOMINATED HIM A SENATOR, BUT HE REFUSED, OF COURSE - WELL, HE'S GIVING A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT TO ASTERIX AND HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH THAT ROMAN



YES, MY HUSBAND FULLIAUTOMATIX TOLD ME THEY WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME. HE HEARD LAUGHTER AND SINGING. THEY SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN DRINKING !



HOW DREADFUL ! YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT ASTERIX. A MAN OF HIS AGE, AND STILL A BACHELOR...

HOW OLD IS HE EXACTLY ?

GOODNESS KNOWS ! MY HUSBAND GERIATRIX SAYS HE'S NOT SO YOUNG AS HE LOOKS !

MMMM... AND HIS FRIEND OBELIX ? DO YOU THINK HE'S A GOOD INFLUENCE ? ALL THAT GREEDY PIG THINKS OF IS HIS FOOD !



THE TROUBLE IS THAT ASTERIX IS OUR DRUID GETARIX'S FAVOURITE, AND HE KNOWS A LOT OF SECRETS...

THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION, FOR EXAMPLE ?



MY LIPS ARE SEALED



AND SOON AFTERWARDS...

... SO ASTERIX HAS SOLD THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION TO THE ROMANS ? THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ! I ASK YOU !

SO THAT'S IT - MY WIFE WAS VISITING THE SENATOR'S WIFE, AND SHE FOUND OUT THAT ASTERIX HAD SOLD THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION TO THE ROMANS

HE GOT A VASE FULL OF PRECIOUS STONES FOR IT

THAT'S TERRIBLE! THE ROMANS WILL MASSACRE US!

HUH! I DON'T NEED ANY MAGIC POTION! I DIDN'T HAVE ANY AT GERGOVIA!

YOU CAN'T CONVINCE ME THAT ASTERIX HAS DONE A THING LIKE THAT. I SHOULD LIKE SOME PROOF

DO YOU THINK IT'S NORMAL FOR THAT ROMAN TO BE GIVING ASTERIX PRESENTS?

WELL, NO...

OH, TAKE NO NOTICE OF HIM! LINHYGIENIX IS A SHOPKEEPER, SO SELLING FISH OR POTIONS, IT'S ALL THE SAME TO HIM!

SAY THAT AGAIN?

YOU HEARD!

PAFF!

ASTERIX IS A TRAITOR!

NO, HE ISN'T!

YES, HE IS!

LOOK OUT! HERE HE COMES! ACT NORMAL! LET'S MAKE OUT WE'RE DOING NOTHING!

TRALA LA!

SMACK!

?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE VILLAGERS' ATTITUDE... SURELY THEY DON'T SUSPECT ME JUST BECAUSE OF THAT ROMAN'S VISIT!

HM... SLANDER CAN BE DANGEROUS. TOUTATIS ALONE KNOWS WHAT IDEAS THEY'RE DREAMING UP!

BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS! THE CHIEF'S BIRTHDAY BANQUET IS THIS VERY EVENING. THAT WILL BRING EVERYBODY TOGETHER AGAIN.

BUT THE DRUID GETAFIX IS LINDLYLY OPTIMISTIC... IN THE VILLAGE, EVERYONE SUSPECTS EVERYONE ELSE...

THE ONLY PERSON WHO IS UNAWARE OF THIS SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS IS THE BARD CACOFONIX, WITH HIS HEAD IN THE CLOUDS...

AND THAT EVENING, DURING THE BANQUET, NO ONE IS SPEAKING TO ANYBODY ELSE...

... IN FACT, THE BARD HAS THE STRANGE IMPRESSION OF BEING ALONE AT THE TABLE. YOU MIGHT ALMOST THINK IT WAS THE END...

... THE END OF THE VILLAGE!

NEXT DAY, A ROMAN PATROL IS SCOUTING AROUND IN THE FOREST, TAKING NO CHANCES...



FOOTSTEPS!

LET'S HIDE IN THAT TREE OVER THERE!



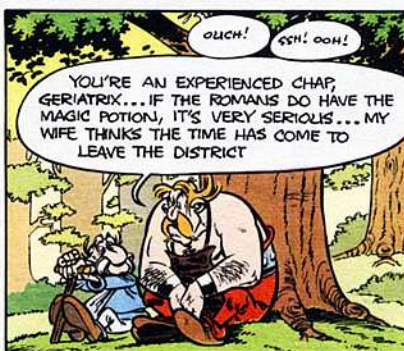
OUCH! LET'S USE A DIFFERENT TREE!

THERE'S NO TIME! SSH!



IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO COME AND HELP ME CHECK MY SNARES, FULLIAUTOMATIX!

I WANTED A QUIET WORD WITH YOU, AWAY FROM THE OTHERS...



OUCH! SSH! OOH!

YOU'RE AN EXPERIENCED CHAP, GERIATRIX... IF THE ROMANS DO HAVE THE MAGIC POTION, IT'S VERY SERIOUS... MY WIFE THINKS THE TIME HAS COME TO LEAVE THE DISTRICT



HUH! THE ROMANS DON'T SCARE ME WITH THEIR MAGIC POTION. I'M READY TO FIGHT AGAIN, AS WE DID AT GERGOVIA!



HAVE WE GOT THE MAGIC POTION?

SURELY WE'D KNOW!

BY THE WAY, BOYS, NOW THE GALLS HAVE GONE, SHALL WE GET DOWN FROM THIS TREE?

YES, BECAUSE OF THE WASPS!



BACK AT AQUARIUM...

**WE'VE GOT THE MAGIC POTION!
WE'VE GOT THE MAGIC POTION!!**



???

CLINK!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BY JUPITER?

WE'VE FOUND OUT WE'VE GOT THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION ...

ALL THE LADS ARE ASKING WHY YOU DON'T GIVE US ANY, INSTEAD OF LETTING US GET BASHED ABOUT BY THOSE GAULISH NUTS!



TEEHEE! YOUR MAGIC POTION IS ME!

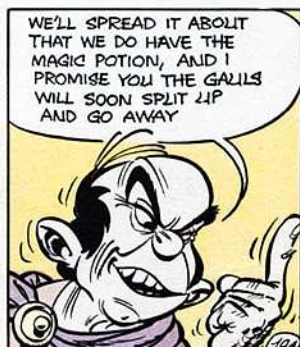


A CAULDRON, QUICK! GET HIM STEWED!

NO THANKS! I'M NOT EATING THAT, I NEVER TOUCH IT!



SIMMER DOWN! EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!



WE'LL SPREAD IT ABOUT THAT WE DO HAVE THE MAGIC POTION, AND I PROMISE YOU THE GAULS WILL SOON SPLIT UP AND GO AWAY

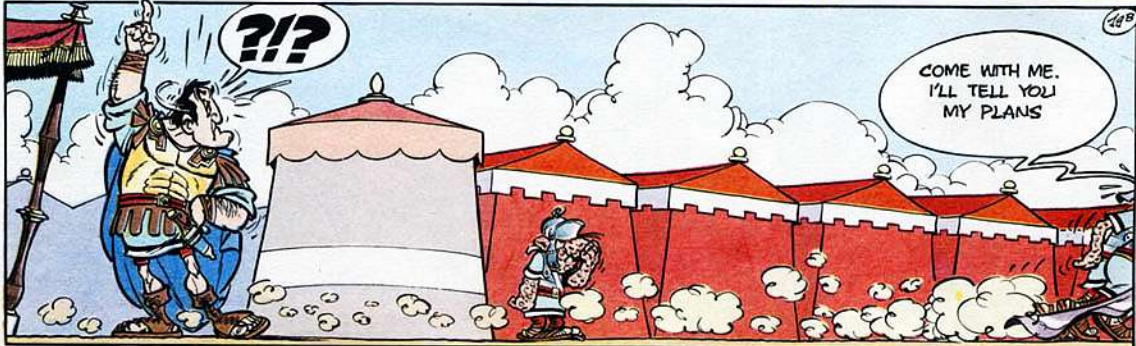


WE ARE SOLDIERS! WE DON'T LIKE THE DEVILOUS WAYS OF CIVIL SERVANTS! WE PREFER HONOURABLE BATTLES, THE CLASH OF ARMS, THE CLARION CALL OF BUCINAS...



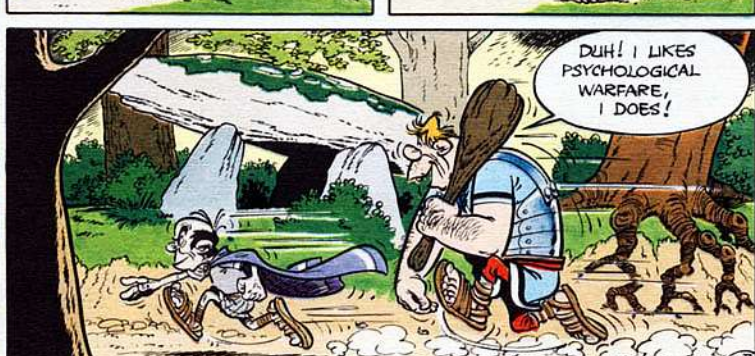
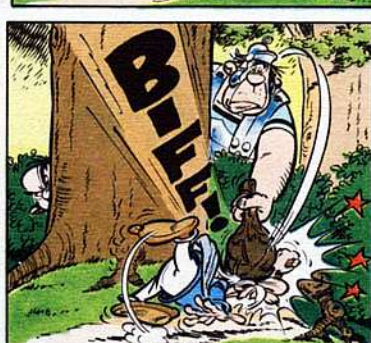
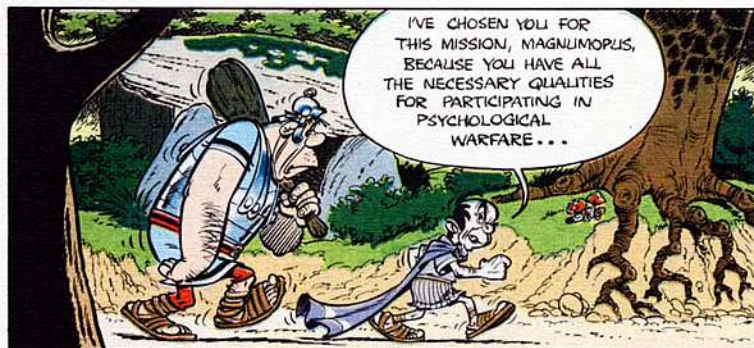
... BLOOD, TOIL, TEARS AND...

RIGHT, WHAT DO WE DO, CONVULVILLUS?



?!?

COME WITH ME. I'LL TELL YOU MY PLANS



**ALESIA!
IT'S ALESIA
ALL OVER
AGAIN!**

**THEY'VE
GOT THE
MAGIC POTION!**

THE ROMANS ATTACKED ME! THEY'VE GOT SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! I WASN'T BEATEN EASILY, AND I MANAGED TO SNATCH THIS TROPHY. ONLY THE MAGIC POTION COULD HAVE MADE THEM STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERCOME ME!

THAT PROVES IT! THEY'VE GOT THE POTION!

OUT OF THE QUESTION! ONLY OUR DRUID KNOWS ITS SECRET!

HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE NOW!

HAVE YOU ALL GONE MAD, BY TOUTATIS? YOU DON'T NEED MAGIC POTION TO KNOCK GERIATRIX OUT!

WHAT'S THAT?

ALL THE SAME, A ROMAN WOULD HAVE TO BE PRETTY SURE OF HIMSELF TO ATTACK EVEN THIS OLD RELIC!

LOOK HERE...

AND LOOK AT THAT TINY LITTLE HELMET! THE LEGIONARY WHO WORE IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PROPER TITCH! WE ALWAYS KNEW GERIATRIX HAD SMALL LATIN...

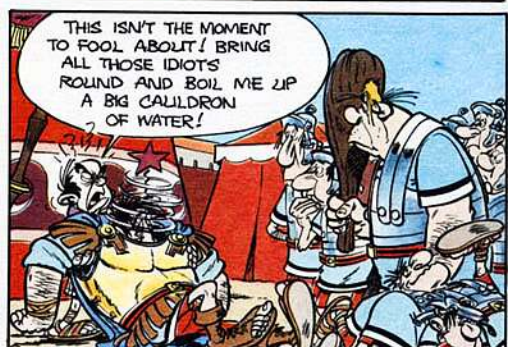
... BUT SURELY EVEN GERIATRIX COULD HAVE MASTERED ANY LATIN THAT SMALL!

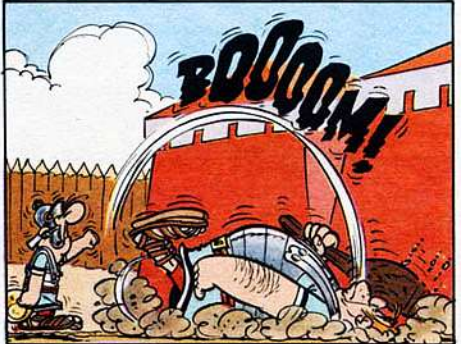
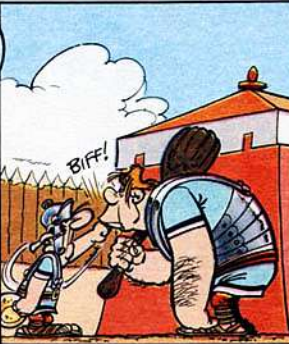
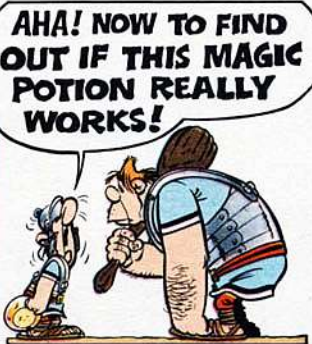
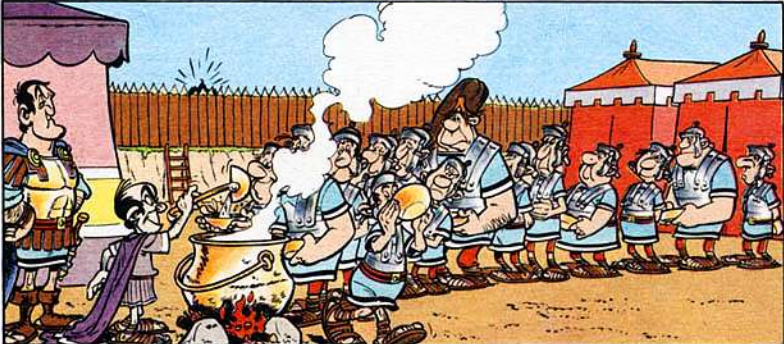
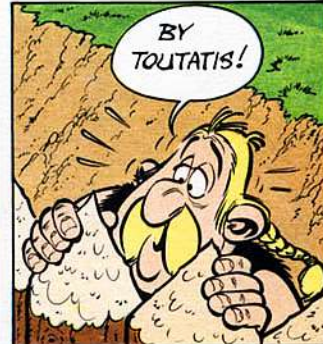
**AND YOU
KNOW WHAT
GERIATRIX
SAYS TO YOU
?!?**

WE MUST FIND OUT FOR SURE WHETHER THE ROMANS HAVE THE MAGIC POTION

I'LL GO AND ASK THEM IF YOU LIKE

NO, NOT YOU. UNHYGIENIX AND FULLIAUTOMATIX, YOU GO!







RIGHT. WE CAN STOP NOW. THEY SHOULD HAVE GONE



STOP ?

BUT WE HAVEN'T HAD OUR MAGIC POTION YET!

IT'S NOT FAIR!

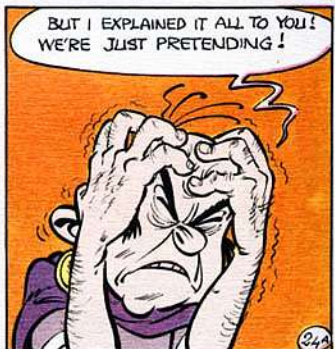
WE'VE GOT A RIGHT TO HAVE OUR MAGIC POTION!

?



BUT IT ISN'T MAGIC POTION ! IT'S ONLY HOT WATER!

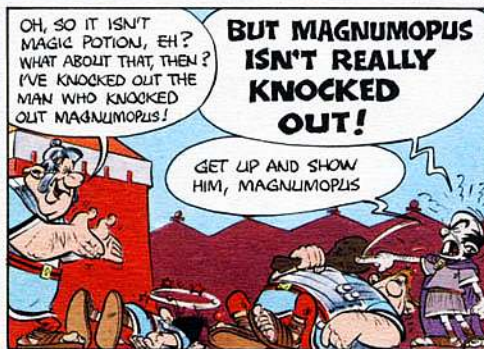
WHAT D'YOU MEAN, IT ISN'T MAGIC POTION? WHAT ABOUT HIM, THEN ?



BUT I EXPLAINED IT ALL TO YOU! WE'RE JUST PRETENDING!



CLONK!



OH, SO IT ISN'T MAGIC POTION, EH? WHAT ABOUT THAT, THEN ? I'VE KNOCKED OUT THE MAN WHO KNOCKED OUT MAGNUMOPUS!

BUT MAGNUMOPUS ISN'T REALLY KNOCKED OUT!

GET UP AND SHOW HIM, MAGNUMOPUS



HAVE A GO WITH ME, MAGNUMOPUS ?

CLONK!

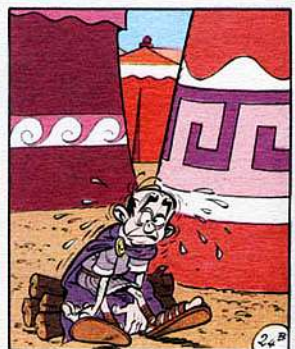


DUH! THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IS GOOD STUFF!

PAF!

YOUR PLANS ARE TOO COMPLICATED, CONVOLUTIONS... I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE NOW MYSELF... SO WHO **HAS** GOT THE MAGIC POTION?

SORRY! SCRATCH!



24

THEY'VE GOT IT!

THE ROMANS HAVE GOT THE MAGIC POTION! WE SAW THEM!



THAT'S RIDICULOUS! HOW COULD THEY HAVE MANAGED TO FIND OUT THE SECRET?



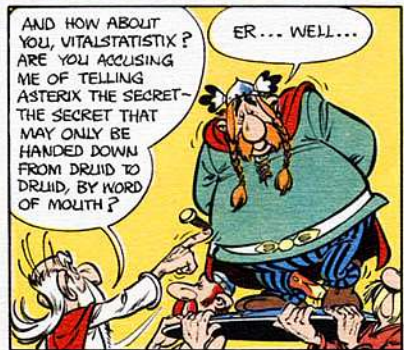
WE'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF ROMANS AROUND THE VILLAGE LATELY

ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF GIVING THE ROMANS THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION?



AND HOW ABOUT YOU, VITALSTATIX? ARE YOU TELLING ASTERIX THE SECRET - THE SECRET THAT MAY ONLY BE HANDED DOWN FROM DRUID TO DRUID, BY WORD OF MOUTH?

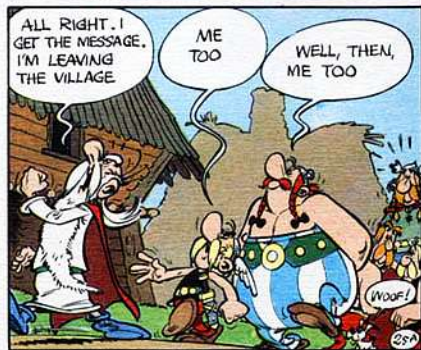
ER... WELL...



ALL RIGHT... I GET THE MESSAGE, I'M LEAVING THE VILLAGE

ME TOO

WELL, THEN, ME TOO



BUT DRUID... IF YOU WALK OUT ON US WE WON'T HAVE ANY MAGIC POTION!



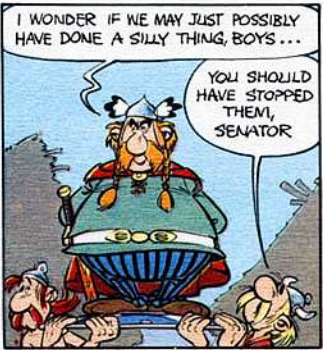
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS FALL IN IT WHEN YOU WERE BABIES!

SO THERE!



I WONDER IF WE MAY JUST POSSIBLY HAVE DONE A SILLY THING, BOYS...

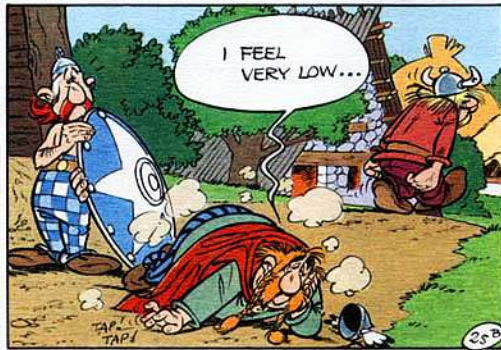
YOU SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THEM, SENATOR



STOP CALLING ME SENATOR, IDIOT! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!



I FEEL VERY LOW...



ALL THE SAME, IT'S A PITY WE'RE LEAVING. NOW THE ROMANS HAVE GOT THE MAGIC POTION IT'LL BE MORE FUN



THEY HAVEN'T GOT THE MAGIC POTION!

WHO HAS GOT THE MAGIC POTION, THEN?



DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, OBELIX

NO ONE EVER EXPLAINS ANYTHING TO ME! THEY JUST KEEP ME AROUND BECAUSE I'M ORNAMENTAL!



GOOD MORNING, LEGIONARY. WE COME IN PEACE. WE WANT TO SEE THAT NEW ROMAN...



CONVOLVULUS, THE CIVIL SERVANT? THIRD TENT ON THE LEFT



WHAT HAVE YOU GOT ON YOUR HEAD?

THEY'VE BEEN PRACTISING PSYCHOLOGY ON ME



YOU AND DOGMATIX WAIT FOR US HERE, OBELIX

RIGHT



HEY!

QUID?

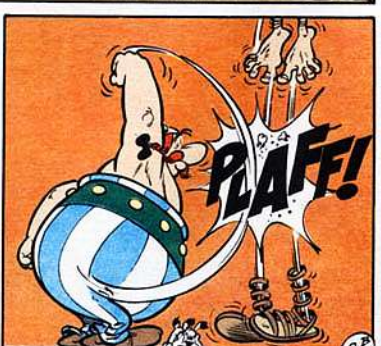


THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO CHECK UP ON, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

CARRY ON



PLAFF!



YOU!?

YES, US. WE
COME TO TELL
YOU THAT YOU'VE
WON!

YOU'VE SUCCEEDED IN
SOWING DISCORD IN OUR
VILLAGE BY SPREADING
LIES AND SLANDER

WH... WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO TO ME?

NOTHING. WE'VE
JUST COME TO TELL YOU
WE DESPISE YOU. WE'RE NOT
INTERESTED IN YOU OR THE
VILLAGERS WHO WERE
SO READY TO BELIEVE
YOUR LIES

WE'RE LEAVING THESE
PARTS, ALONG WITH OBELIX
AND THE MAGIC POTION!

??

I CHECKED UP ON
IT! THEY HAVEN'T GOT
THE MAGIC POTION. THEY'RE
AS SOFT AS EVER

LET'S GET OUT OF
THIS CAMP

DID YOU SEE THAT, DOGMATIX?
NO ONE'S GOT THE MAGIC
POTION NOW, AND THEY'RE
LAUGHING!

WE CAN SEE EVERYTHING
THAT GOES ON IN THE
CAMP FROM OUR VANTAGE
POINT IN THIS TREE

**I'VE DONE IT! IT WORKED!
THE DRUID, THE DWARF AND
THE MONSTER HAVE LEFT
THE VILLAGE!**

EXPLAIN YOURSELF,
CONVOLVILLUS. YOU'RE
MAKING LESS SENSE
ALL THE TIME

NOW THAT THOSE THREE GAULS
HAVE GONE, THE OTHERS WILL BE
HARMLESS. NO MORE DRUID, NO
MORE MAGIC POTION!

**I GET
IT!**

**SOUND THE BUCINAS AND
TRUMPETS! TO ARMS! EVERYONE
FALL IN! ALL ABLE-BODIED
PERSONNEL TO REVIVE
THOSE WHO WERE
BRAINWASHED!**

**TANTANTARA
TARAA!**

?!?

AND WHAT,
MAY I ASK,
IS THAT?

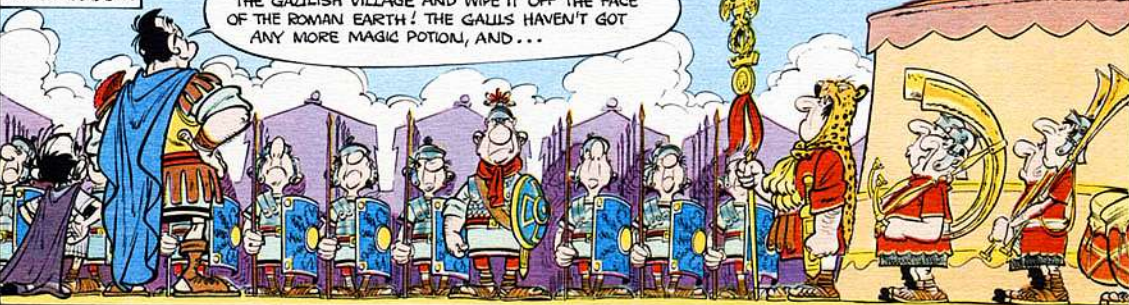
WELL, SINCE THERE
ARE SOME WHO SAY
WE HAVEN'T GOT THE
MAGIC POTION, WE
THOUGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARF...

**THAT WILL DO! YOU'RE
IN THE ROMAN ARMY
NOW!**

**STAND TO ATTENTION!
NO FALLING OUT OF LINE!
YOU WILL MASSACRE
ACCORDING TO THE RULES!
I DON'T WANT ANY
FANCY NOTIONS HERE! GO
AND GET YOUR WEAPONS!**

SOON AFTERWARDS...

RIGHT! LEGIONARIES, WE ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK THE GALLISH VILLAGE AND WIPE IT OFF THE FACE OF THE ROMAN EARTH! THE GALLS HAVEN'T GOT ANY MORE MAGIC POTION, AND...



BUT... ER... HAVE WE GOT THE MAGIC POTION, THEN?

YES, OF COURSE WE HAVE!

NO, OF COURSE WE HAVEN'T!



YES, WE HAVE!

BUT HOMUNCULUS...

I TELL YOU WE HAVEN'T!

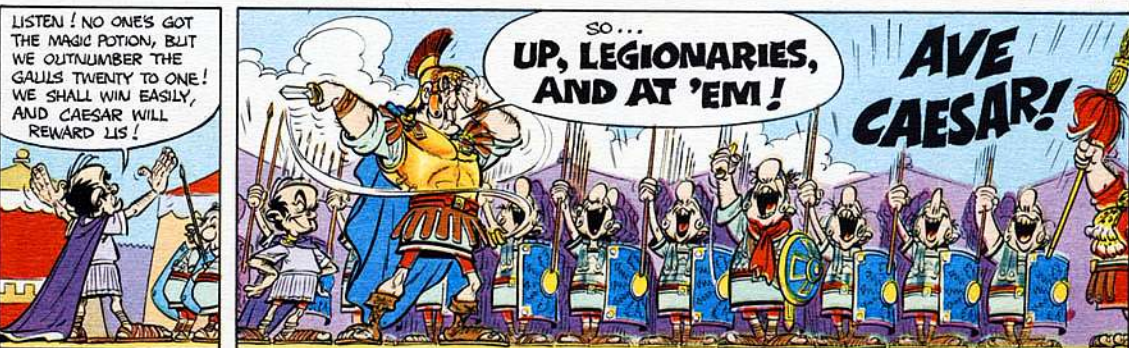
LOOK, JOKING APART, HAVE WE GOT IT OR HAVE WE NOT?



LISTEN! NO ONE'S GOT THE MAGIC POTION, BUT WE OUTNUMBER THE GALLS TWENTY TO ONE! WE SHALL WIN EASILY, AND CAESAR WILL REWARD US!

SO... UP, LEGIONARIES, AND AT 'EM!

AVE CAESAR!



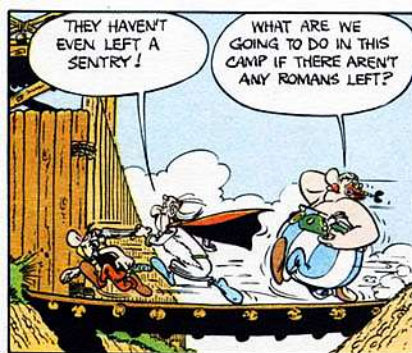
I SEE THAT MIXING WITH US HAS MADE YOU A CUNNING STRATEGIST!

TANTANTAR TAAAA! BONG! BONG!



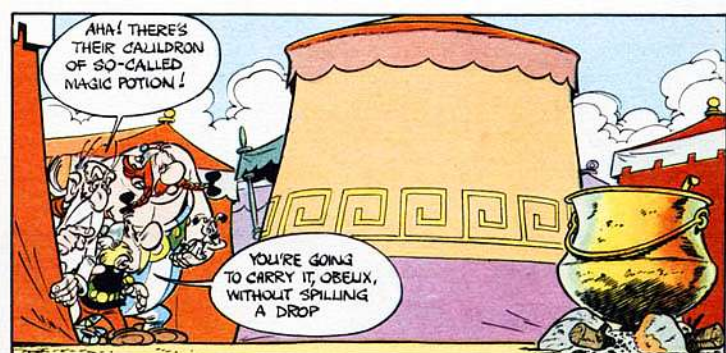
IT'S WORKING LIKE A CHARM! THEY'VE LEFT THE CAMP! OFF WE GO!





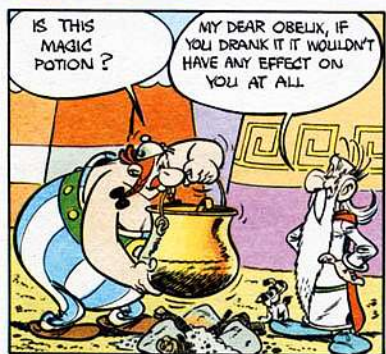
THEY HAVEN'T EVEN LEFT A SENTRY!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO IN THIS CAMP IF THERE AREN'T ANY ROMANS LEFT?



AHA! THERE'S THEIR CALDRON OF SO-CALLED MAGIC POTION!

YOU'RE GOING TO CARRY IT, OBELEX, WITHOUT SPILLING A DROP



IS THIS MAGIC POTION?

MY DEAR OBELEX, IF YOU DRANK IT IT WOULDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON YOU AT ALL.



OH, THEN IT IS MAGIC POTION. MAGIC POTION NEVER DOES HAVE ANY EFFECT ON ME AT ALL.



SOMETIMES HE MAKES ME WONDER IF I KNOW WHAT I MEAN MYSELF!

LET'S NOT WASTE TIME. WE HAVE TO REACH THE VILLAGE BEFORE THE ROMANS



SURE ENOUGH, THE LEGIONARIES ARE PASSING THROUGH THE FOREST IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLAGE...

I SAY, THE LADS WANT TO KNOW HOW THE LOOT IS GOING TO BE SHARED OUT THIS TIME, BECAUSE AT MUNDA...

WELL, WHAT ABOUT MUNDA? WHAT HAPPENED AT MUNDA?



THE LOOT WAS PERFECTLY FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED... LET'S SEE, THERE WERE THOSE TWELVE VALUABLE VASES...



LET'S NOT COUNT ON VALUABLE VASES... YOU MIGHT GET A NASTY JAR!

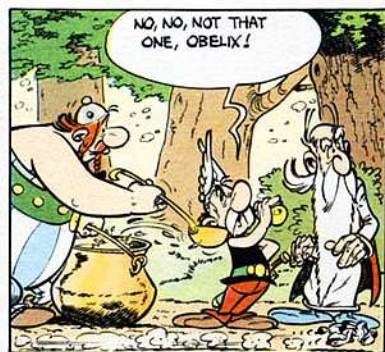


SURE ENOUGH, IN THE VILLAGE, THE GALLS ARE GETTING READY TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE NOT BY ANY MEANS OLD CROCKS...

WITH OR WITHOUT POTION, WE'LL SHOW THEM WHO WE ARE!



WE'D BETTER NOT SHOW THEM HOW MANY WE ARE, THAT'S ALL!



ASTERIX, OBELIX AND GETAFIX ARE COMING BACK!!!



QUICK, YOU TWO! GO AND OPEN THE GATES!

RIGHT, CHIEF!



MIND THE SHIELD, WILL YOU, CHIEF?



SHUT THE GATES!



MEANWHILE ...

WHAT HAPPENED?



O CENTURION PLATYPLUS, I HAVE ENDANGERED MY LIFE TO BRING YOU THIS REPORT! THE REAR WAS TREACHEROUSLY ATTACKED, AND SURRENDERED ONLY AFTER A TERRIBLE STRUGGLE!



IDIOT! OWING TO THE FAILURE OF THE REAR TO BACK LIS UP, THE ORDER OF MARCH HAS BEEN TURNED BACK TO FRONT! **NOW GET BACK TO THE FRONT!**



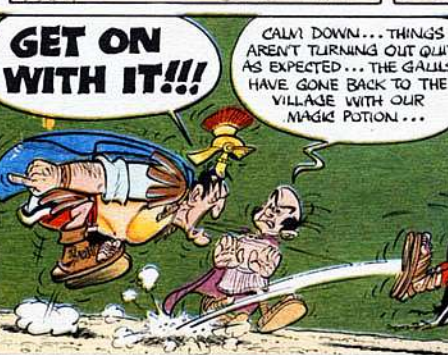
DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND ME?

WELL, TO BE HONEST ...



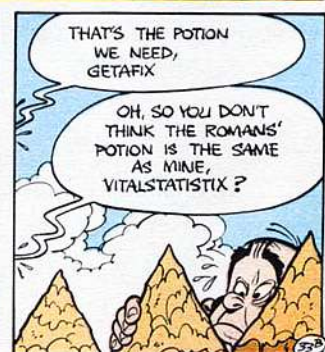
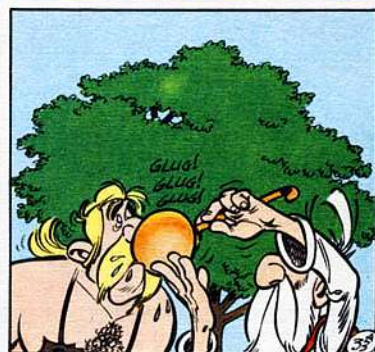
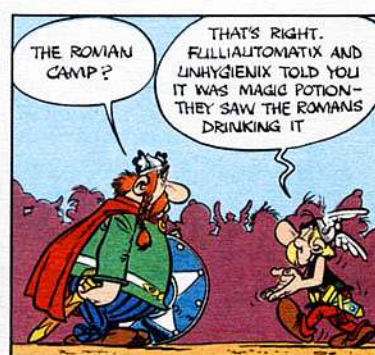
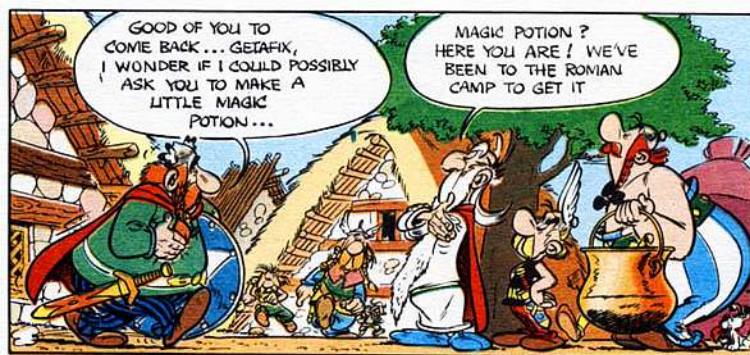
GET ON WITH IT!!!

CALM DOWN... THINGS AREN'T TURNING OUT QUITE AS EXPECTED... THE GALLS HAVE GONE BACK TO THE VILLAGE WITH OUR MAGIC POTION...



BUT IT ISN'T THE REAL MAGIC POTION... OR IF IT IS, I'M DROPPING THE WHOLE AFFAIR ON THE GROUNDS OF TOTAL INCOMPREHENSIBILITY!





THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO BE LOST! THE GALLS KNOW THAT OUR POTION IS NO GOOD. THEIR DRUID IS GOING TO MAKE THEM SOME OF THE REAL STUFF! WE MUST ATTACK AT ONCE. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

ATTA...!?

WHERE'S THAT LOT GONE?

THE VANGUARD WENT TO HELP THE REAR, AND I STAYED AT THE FRONT BACK HERE, BECAUSE AFTER ALL PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ...

GO AND FIND ME ALL THOSE IDIOTS, IDIOT!

MEANWHILE...

ALL RIGHT, SO WE BEHAVED BADLY. WE BELIEVED THE SLANDERS THAT ROMAN SPREAD, AND WE WERE WRONG... YOU WOULDN'T LET US DOWN NOW, WOULD YOU?

NEVER MIND! IT'LL BE LIKE GERGOVIA! WE DON'T NEED ANY POTION! LET'S GO!

HE'S RIGHT! LET'S GO! **I'M COMING TOO!**

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BUT I'M GOING WITH YOU!

WE'LL ALL GO!

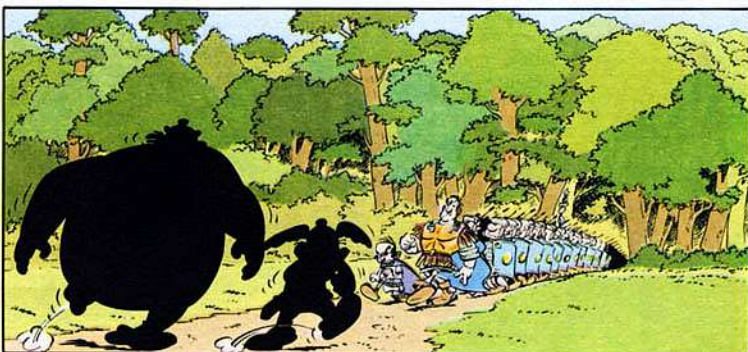
THIS IS MORE LIKE YOU! ABSOLUTELY CRAZY, BUT LIMITED ONCE AGAIN. NOW I'LL MAKE YOU SOME MAGIC POTION! REAL MAGIC POTION!

BUT THAT WILL TAKE TIME, AND THE ROMANS...

WELL, YOU AND OBELIX HOLD THE ROMANS OFF!

DO YOU GET IT, OBELIX? WE MUST HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL OUR DRUID HAS FINISHED MAKING THE MAGIC POTION

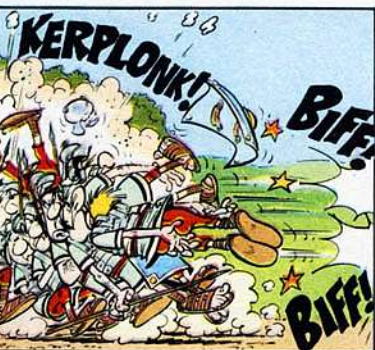
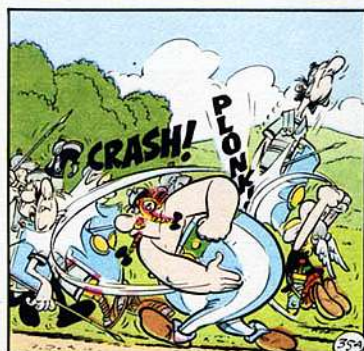
I DON'T REALLY GET ANYTHING, BUT I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!



SURRENDER GAULS!

MAY I?

BY ALL MEANS



A WHOLE ARMY PLUT TO FLIGHT BY TWO BARBARIANS. OH, WON'T CAESAR BE PLEASED WHEN I TELL HIM ABOUT THIS!

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING TO TELL. THIS IS A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL. I'M GOING TO ASK THE OTHER GARRISONS TO BRING UP REINFORCEMENTS AND TAKE THEM IN THE REAR. WE SHALL CRUSH THEM BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!

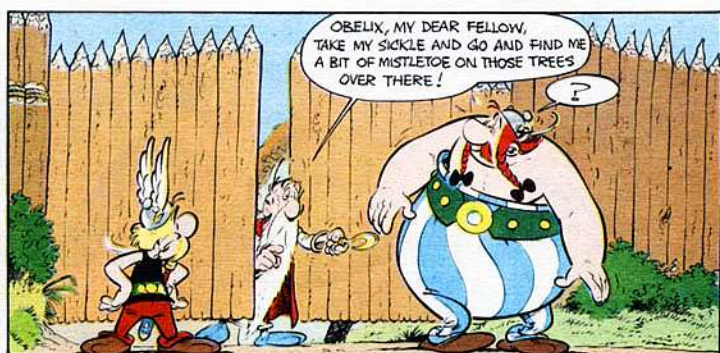
OF COURSE, THERE ARE TWO OF THEM, AND WE'RE ONLY ONE GARRISON

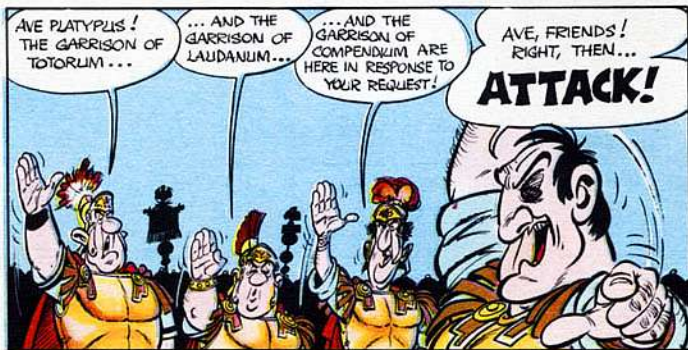
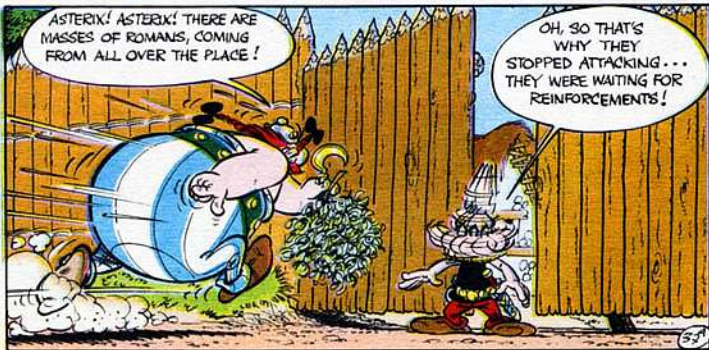
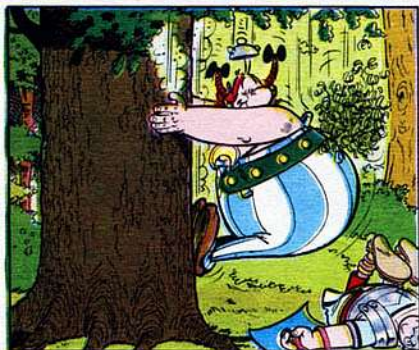
TAKE THESE MESSAGES TO LAUDANUM, TOTORIUM AND COMPENDIUM. HURRY!

SLIRE ENOUGH, TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE ROMANS ...

JUST LET IT SIMMER FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES ...

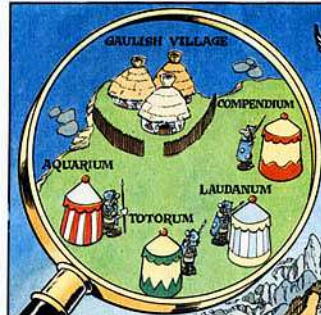






THE BATTLE OF THE VILLAGE

Only a panoramic view can do justice to the complex nature of this terrible battle, in which a small village of indomitable Gauls comes to grips with the garrisons of the fortified Roman camps of Aquarium, Totorum, Laudanum and Compendium.



- 1 Indomitable little Gaulish village.
- 2 Garrison of Aquarium (Roman camp).
- 3 Garrison of Roman camp of Totorum.
- 4 Garrison of Roman camp of Laudanum.
- 5 Garrison of Roman camp of Compendium.
- 6, 7, 8, 9 Gauls pouring out of the village any side how, without any plan of battle.
- 10 Druid Getafix awaiting the outcome of the battle beside his cauldron, now empty.
- 11 Bard Cacofone asking the druid what it's all about, and what, might he ask, is going on?
- 12 Pirate ship sunk by Gauls pouring out at (8).
- 13 Full of enthusiasm, discovering on arrival at the beach that there are no Romans available, and deciding not to waste their time anyway, by Totatis.
- 14 Obelix, menhir delivery man, trying to keep back the Gauls while explaining to them that he got there first, he didn't ring for anyone, he would like to be left alone with his own Romans and they don't want to be disturbed.
- 15 Folliaudomax, village blacksmith, catching sight of an old friend.
- 16 Unhygienix, village fishmonger, friend of the afore-mentioned.
- 17 Point of intersection of the two friends.
- 18 Getafix, village elder, engaged in single combat with Magnusopus, Roman legionary.
- 19 Vitalstatistix, chief of the Gaulish village, badly let down by his shield-bearers, who have jumped the fence without bothering to see that he kept his balance. He feels understandably downcast for a few moments.



VITALSTATISTIX
Gaulish chief



ASTERIX
Gaulish warrior



OBELIX
menhir delivery man



PLATYPUS
Roman centurion

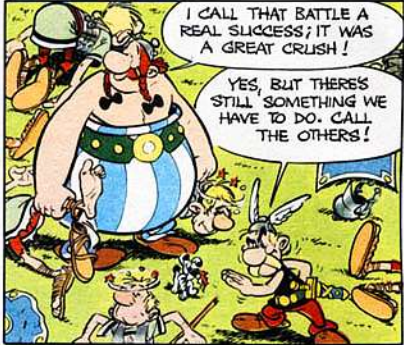


CONVOLVULUS
Roman strategist

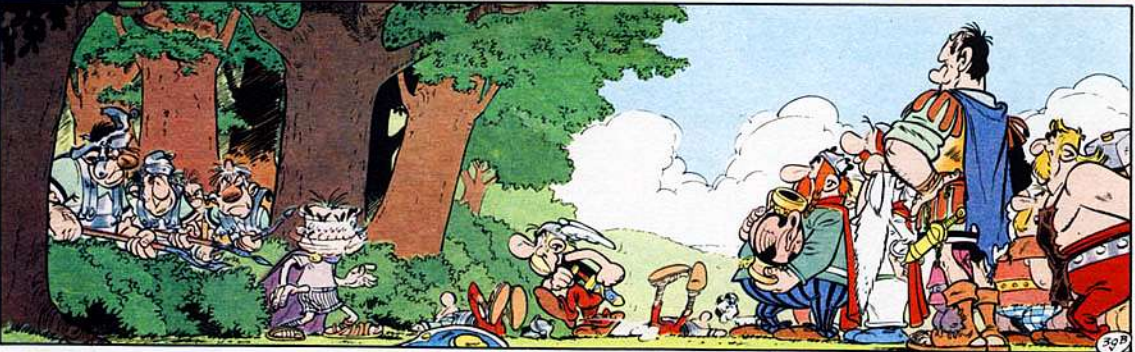
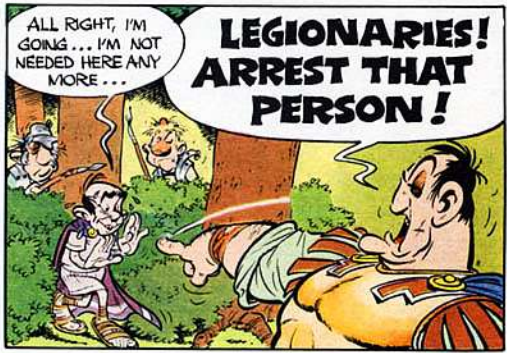
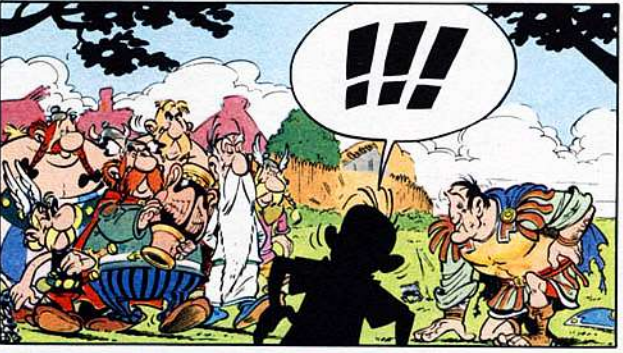
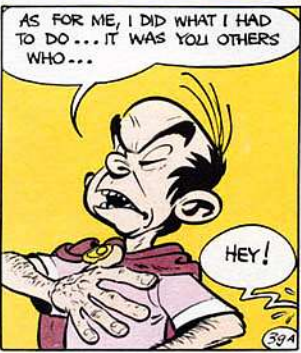


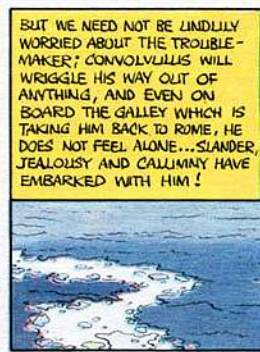
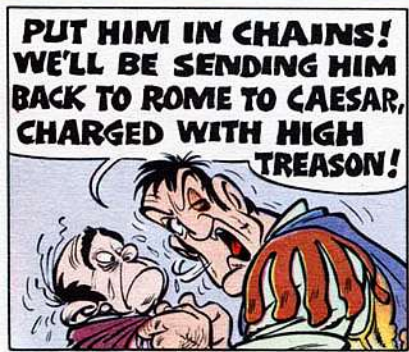
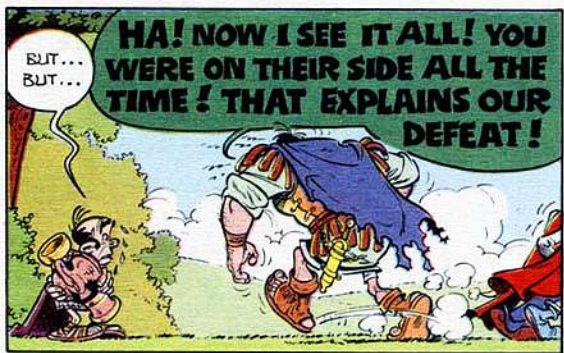
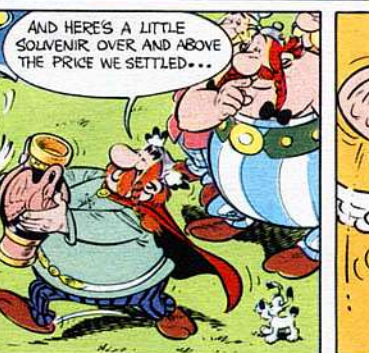
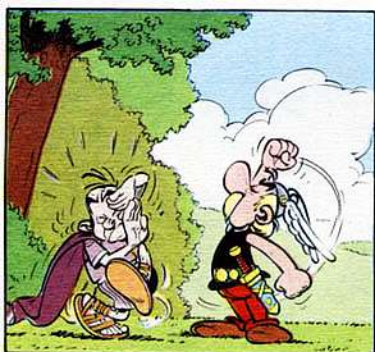
MAGNUMOPUS
Roman legionary

THE BATTLE, ALTHOUGH VIOLENT, IS OF SHORT DURATION, AND THE VICTORS ARE LEFT IN POSSESSION OF THE BATTLEFIELD, THEIR ARMS FULL OF TROPHIES...



A LITTLE FARTHER AWAY...





THANKS VERY MUCH, CONVULVULUS!

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

YOU DID WELL! WERE PLEASUED WITH YOU. YOU KEPT YOUR WORD!

YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND A WELCOME IN OUR VILLAGE, CONVULVULUS!

AND HERE'S A LITTLE SOLVENIR OVER AND ABOVE THE PRICE WE SETTLED...

LONG LIVE CONVULVULUS!

UP WITH CONVULVULUS!

UP WITH OUR OLD PAL!

BUT... BUT...

HA! NOW I SEE IT ALL! YOU WERE ON THEIR SIDE ALL THE TIME! THAT EXPLAINS OUR DEFEAT!

I NEVER! IT'S A SLANDER! YOU CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH WICKED LIES!

OH, CAN'T WE JUST!!!

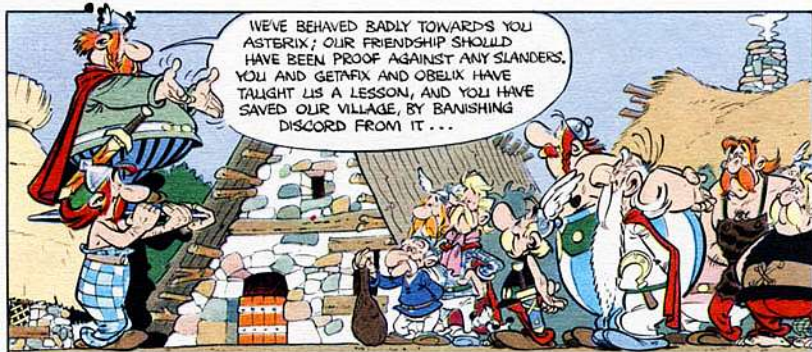
CRASH!

PUT HIM IN CHAINS! WE'LL BE SENDING HIM BACK TO ROME TO CAESAR, CHARGED WITH HIGH TREASON!

BUT WE NEED NOT BE LINDLILY WORRIED ABOUT THE TROUBLE-MAKER; CONVULVULUS WILL WIGGLE HIS WAY OUT OF ANYTHING, AND EVEN ON BOARD THE GALLEY WHICH IS TAKING HIM BACK TO ROME, HE DOES NOT FEEL ALONE...SLANDER, JEALOUSY AND CALUMNY HAVE EMBARKED WITH HIM!

I SAID TO PORT!

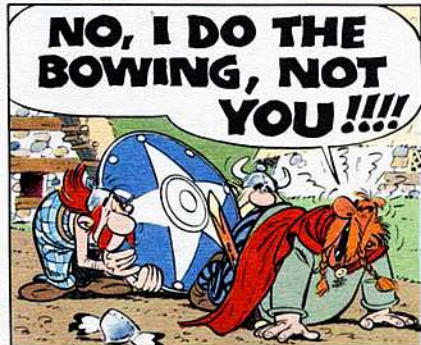
STOP SHOVING YOUR OAR IN, CAPTAIN - WE ALL KNOW THE SORT OF PULL YOU USED TO GET YOUR JOB!



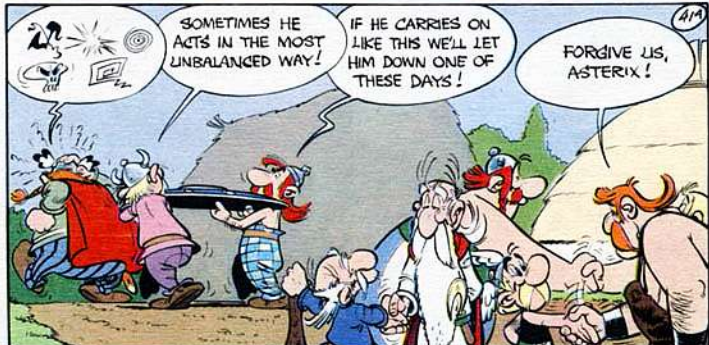
WE'VE BEHAVED BADLY TOWARDS YOU ASTERIX; OUR FRIENDSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROOF AGAINST ANY SLANDERS. YOU AND GETRIX AND OBELIX HAVE TAUGHT US A LESSON, AND YOU HAVE SAVED OUR VILLAGE, BY BANISHING DISCORD FROM IT ...



ASTERIX, WE BOW TO YOU!



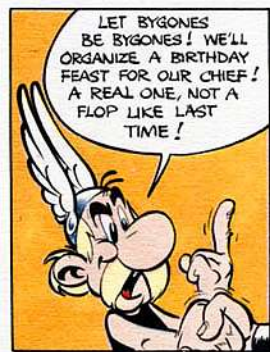
NO, I DO THE BOWING, NOT YOU!!!!



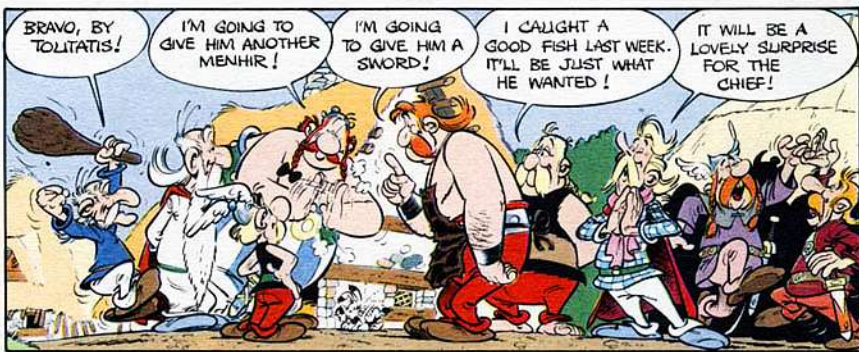
SOMETIMES HE ACTS IN THE MOST UNBALANCED WAY!

IF HE CARRIES ON LIKE THIS WE'LL LET HIM DOWN ONE OF THESE DAYS!

FORGIVE US, ASTERIX!



LET BYGONES BE BYGONES! WE'LL ORGANIZE A BIRTHDAY FEAST FOR OUR CHIEF! A REAL ONE, NOT A FLOP LIKE LAST TIME!



BRAVO, BY TOLITATIS!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM ANOTHER MENHIR!

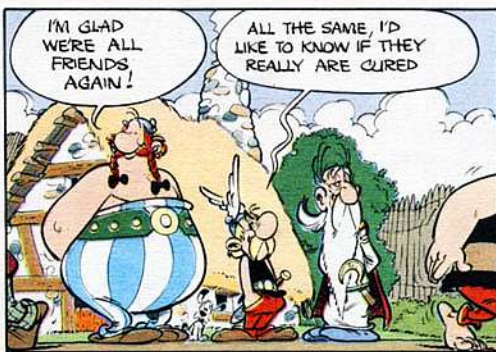
I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A SWORD!

I CAUGHT A GOOD FISH LAST WEEK. IT'LL BE JUST WHAT HE WANTED!

IT WILL BE A LOVELY SURPRISE FOR THE CHIEF!

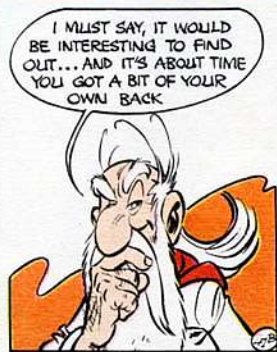


MEANWHILE... WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE! MY DEAR FRIENDS, I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS...



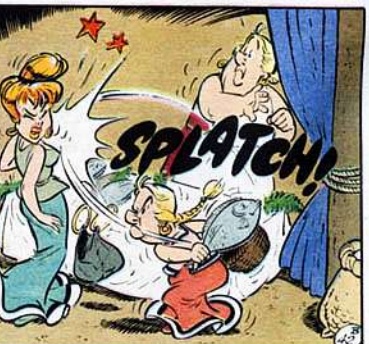
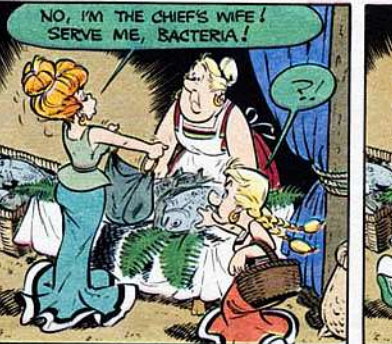
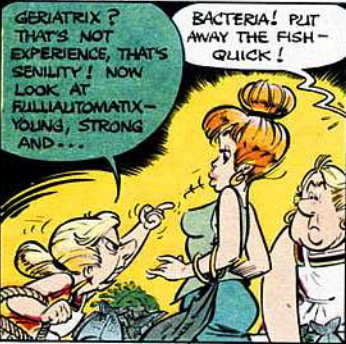
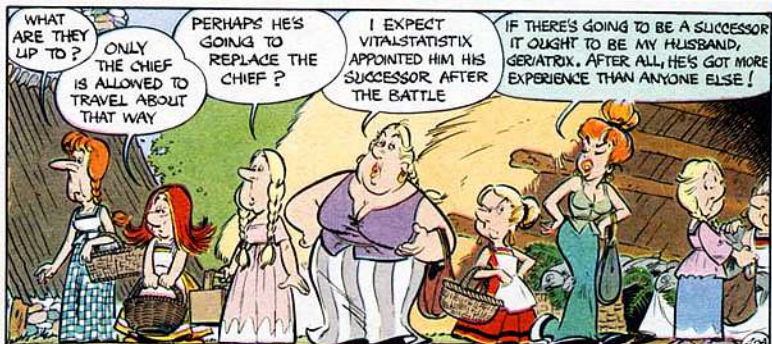
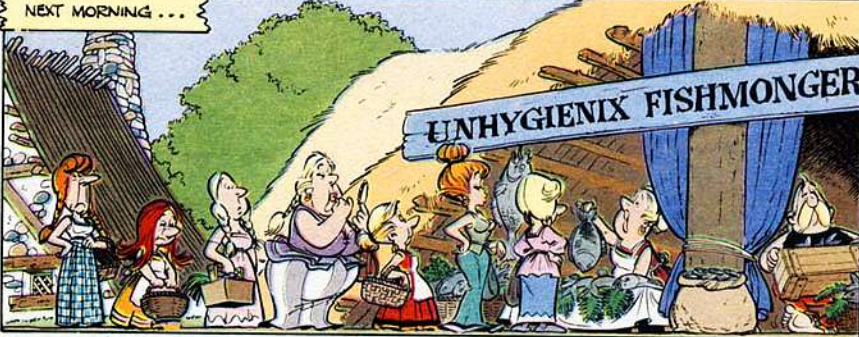
I'M GLAD WERE ALL FRIENDS AGAIN!

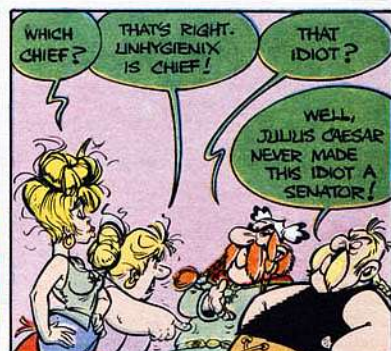
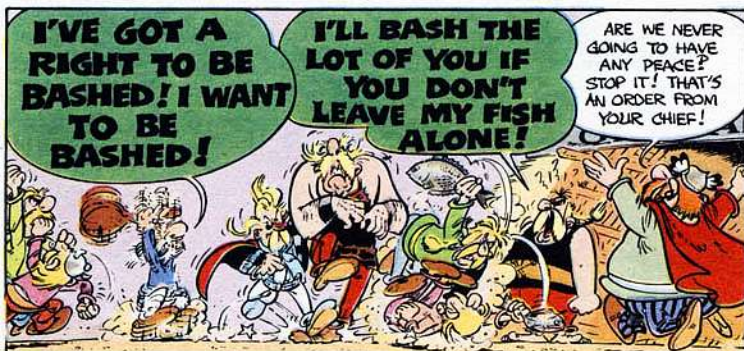
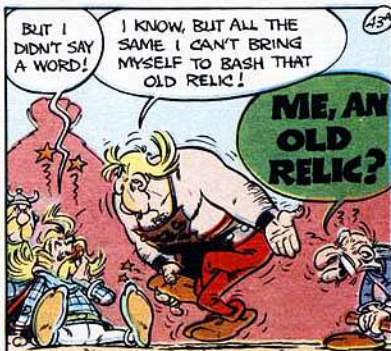
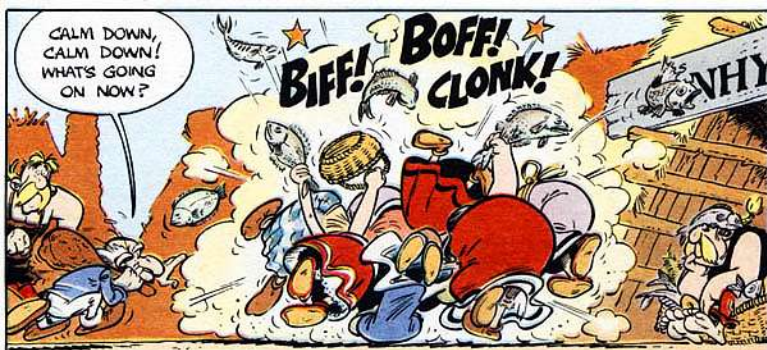
ALL THE SAME, I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF THEY REALLY ARE CURED

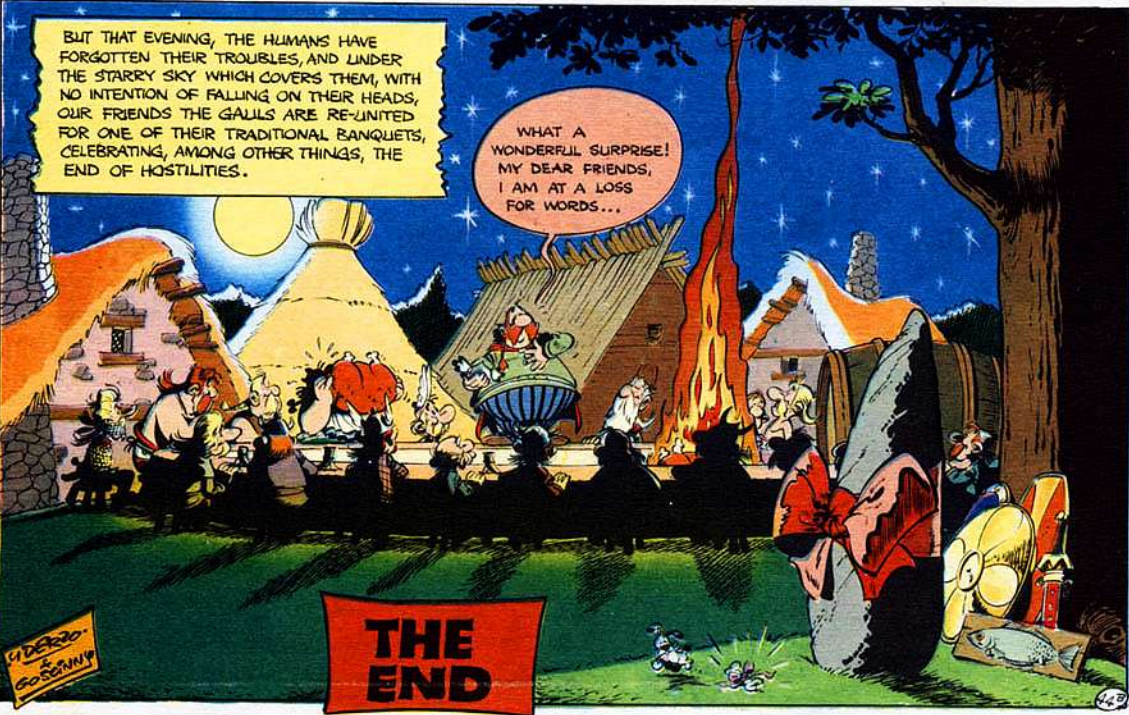
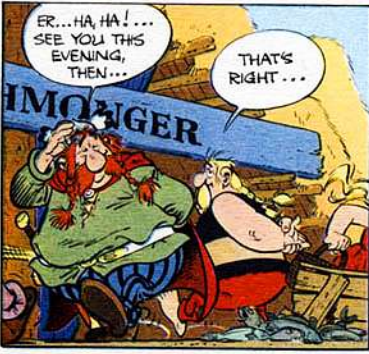
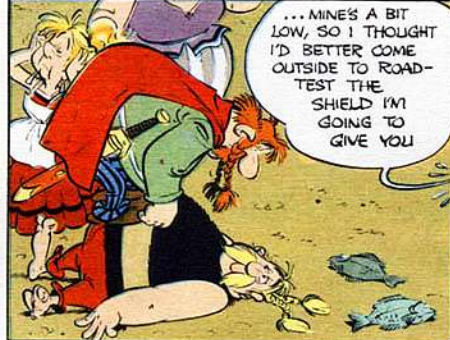


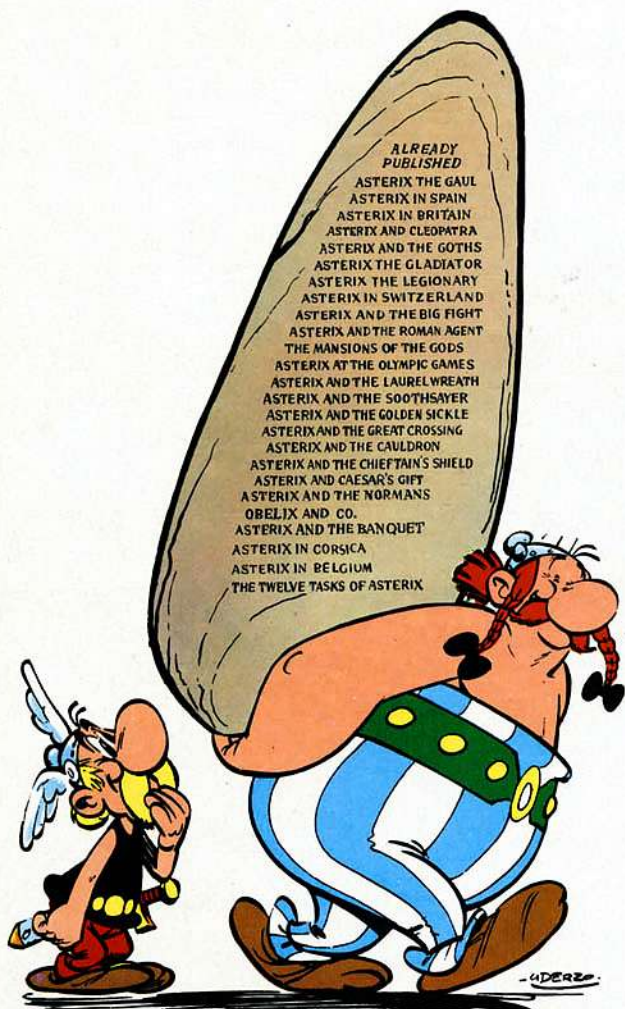
I MUST SAY, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO FIND OUT... AND IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT A BIT OF YOUR OWN BACK

NEXT MORNING ...









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